

From: Alex Amies
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 9:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to comment on the proposed United States v. Microsoft Settlement.

I do not believe that the settlement is strong enough to create a level playing field between Microsoft and it's competitors. In particular, it will have the following impact on me as a computer programmer:

(1) Force me to invest my time learning proprietary Microsoft technologies rather than industry standards. Microsoft in many cases stubbornly refuses to follow open industry standards and since they create the most commonly used platforms everybody else has to learn to use Microsoft's own versions of API's, protocols, and formats. Therefore, I get to spend less time learning technologies that can be applied to other operating systems. A monopoly company should be required to follow open industry standards.

(2) Force me to use Windows as my desktop operating system when I would prefer to use something else. I would prefer to use Linux and that would be an option for me at work if the Netscape mail client on Linux (which follows the IMAP and POP3 standards) is not compatible with the Microsoft Exchange Mail server that my company operates for its staff. I am very dependent on email communication and, in fact, cannot work without it. A monopoly company should be required to produce network software that is compatible with products from other vendors.

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